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cc:

Subject April 15, 1999 Meetings

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Well here is the information for the meetings next week. Please note the change in dates for the high flow sampling event. It has been changed to reflect the snow pack. We need people with experience at taking flow measurements!

ANIMAS RIVER STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEETING PROPOSED AGENDA

Location: Town Hall, Silverton, CO

Facilitator:

WHEN: 6:00 PM, APRIL 15, 1999

Approval of Minutes and additions to this evenings agenda; facilitator selection

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Data base update

OLD BUSINESS

Good Samaritan Provision Letter for the BOCC

Coordinator's Report

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

NEW BUSINESS

I. Summer projects

High flow sampling: Eureka to Silverton scheduled for 6/21/99

Congress mine waste removal

II. Mine waste repository

Concept of joint BLM/State of Colorado ownership
Need for repository

Break

III. New Database possibilities
STORET 1.1

Marty McComb

IV. Remediation Management Team Concept

V. Adjourn

FEASIBILITY WORK GROUP Proposed Agenda

When: 9:30 AM, APRIL 15, 1999

Where: Basement of the Miner's Union Hospital, 13th and Snowden St.,
Silverton, Colorado.

AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Load Analysis Description , Planning, and Details

Lieb

2. Remediation Management Team
Haz Mat possibility
team members
assignments

3. Geoprobe update

Odell

4. Repository Issues
BLM believes the State should participate with them on repository
development.
Is there a need for common repository, for how much waste?

MONITORING WORK GROUP
Proposed Agenda

WHEN: 1:30 PM, APRIL 15, 1999

WHERE: Miner's Union Hospital, Basement - 13th and Snowden St.

Agenda Items:

1. Tracer Study preliminary results

- Eureka area (wells)
- Eureka to Silverton
- Silverton to Elk Park

2. Database solutions

- CDPHE participation
- Storet description

Robert Gallegos, Arny Sjodin
Marty McComb (EPA)

3. Biology Updates

- Hydrosphere report
- DOW toxicity studies

4. Pickup sampling: S. Fork of Eureka creek, Placer Gulch, Mineral creek
mine dumps (Bandora, Bonner, North Star 7 level 2:1 leach tests),

5. Monitoring Remediation projects

- parameters
- frequency
costs
QAPP

REGULATORY WORK GROUP
Proposed Agenda

When: 4:00- 4:30 PM, APRIL 15, 1999

Where: Basement of the Miner's Union Hospital, 13th and Snowden St.

ITEM:

Letter to BOCC suggesting support for GSP

Upper Animas Watershed
Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

Preliminary Outline
Prepared by the Animas River Stakeholders Group
William Simon, Watershed Coordinator

Introduction: Narrative Summary of Stakeholder process, goals and instruments developed to reach goal attainment.

Then more detailed descriptions of actions:

I. The Animas River Stakeholders Group Process

- A. Process Description and Mission
- B. List of Active Participants (see Appendix A)
- C. Authority
- D. Program Goals:

II. Watershed Description

A. Watershed Area and Geology

B. Problem Description

- 1. Reduced biodiversity and vitality of aquatic life brought about by the chemical and physical impacts of metals and acidity. The impacts of both natural weathering of mineralized rocks and mine related disturbances are considered responsible.
- 2. A long term monitoring program throughout the upper Animas basin above Silverton has failed to identify other significant risks to human health or the aquatic environment. However, this established water monitoring program will continue. There does exist concern over possible elevated nutrient loading to the Animas in the area surrounding Durango.

III. Pollution Sources and Relative Contribution

- A. Initial Source Identification and preliminary load analysis
- B. Detailed Source Characterization and load analysis

IV. Use Attainability Analysis (UAA)

Appendix C: Flow Diagram depicting components and schedule for completion

The UAA will include:

- A. Detailed Load Analyses for each major tributary and important segments
- B. Source characterizations (natural and mine related)
- C. Remediation Plan
- D. Summary of findings and recommended alternatives for reaching CWA compliance.

V. TMDL Framework (and Implementation)?

Description of process, goals, and tasks.

VI. Watershed Remediation Plan Implementation

- A. Prioritization flexibility
 - sorting of source sites by metal contributions
- feasibility analyses
- priority lists
- B. Land owner education and encouragement
- C. Entities to oversee remediation implementation, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation.
- D. Schedule (20 year)

VII. Continued Monitoring and Evaluation (to assess progress towards achieving environmental and programmatic goals).

VIII. Funding (to support the implementation and maintenance of remediation)

- IX. Schedule for completion of WRAS
- X. Schedule of WRAS Implementation

Other requirements already addressed in outline above:

Process of Cross - Agency coordination to help implement the WRAS (see ARSG description)

Process for public involvement (see ARSG description)

ARSG BULLETIN BOARD

Please make corrections and additions and get them to Sara

APRIL

April 9 Southwest Water Conservation District Annual Symposium at the Double Tree Inn. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

April 15 Feasibility (9:30 am.), Monitoring (1:30 PM), Regulatory (4:00 PM) workgroup meetings at Miner's Union Hospital (13th and Reese St., Silverton)

April 18-19 Southwest Water Conservation District Annual Water Fair: The ARSG will once again have a display and information booth. Silverton students will participate this year!

MAY

Beginning in May, at our regular stakeholders meetings will precede each meeting with presentations on various studies that have been completed and that may be included in the UAA. Everyone will be encouraged to attend these informative sessions but staying for the stakeholders meeting will be optional.

JUNE

June 21

High Flow Sampling -- This will be our last major sampling event! It will also be our most challenging because of high flows and the multitude of remote sites we will be visiting. We need volunteers! We also need experienced people to take stream flows. Please let folks know of our needs.

ANIMAS RIVER STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Meeting Summary

February 18, 1999

Attendees: (23) Steve Fearn - facilitator (Silver Wing), Sara Staber - asst (RWN), Stephanie Odell (FS/BLM), Deesta Lewis (BLM), Loren Wickstrom (BLM), Mike Johnson (USFS), Paul Beaber ((USFS), Rob Blair (FLC), Chris George (St. Paul Ski Lodge), Brent Westlund (Silverton), Rich Perino (SJCC), Dick Zanett (Ouray), Chris Smith (SJCC), Dan Randolph (MPC), Win Wright (USGS), Jon Evans (USGS), Paul Krabacher (DMG), Peter Butler (WQCC), Ethan & Maureen Wortis (The Standard), Brian Fullmer (landowner), Larry Perino (SGC), Bill Simon (Animas Watershed Coord)

INTROS, AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was held Thursday February 18, 1999 at the Silverton Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. The September and November 1998 meeting summaries were approved.

Announcements:

- The USGS Mine Drainage conference is being held in S. Carolina this year in March. One attendee from ARSG was invited but it isn't feasible to attend with our budgetary constraints. Some reports regarding AML studies in this basin will be given, and it was suggested that we ask Paul vonGuerard if he would help the group get copies of reports by sending a

request letter to DOI higher ups.

- Three abstract were provided for the Society of Mining Engineers annual convention to be held in Denver this fall. Presentations will be given on Source Characterization, Biological Potential Determination, and UAA and TMDL Development.
- Access and transportation is needed for DOW toxicity studies on trout to be conducted in the Elk Park area of the Animas Canyon in mid June-October of 1999. The DOW has acquired a new truck which is a mobile lab to do field toxicity studies on brook, brown and cutthroat trout. This will be the most extensive field tests of trout to date. The study is necessary to compare to lab studies that have been used to set water quality standards. This will give us a real scientific basis for toxicity numbers as the amounts currently used were extrapolated from laboratory reports. Volunteers will be needed for 3 weeks of 24 hour per day monitoring of the tests!
- Sara Staber just submitted two grants to private foundations for process facilitation and outreach efforts. If granted these funds will be used to continuation of services for the group and to educate and get support for the UAA and TMDL development for the upcoming review in August of 2000 prior to the 2001 Rulemaking Hearing
- There is a \$50,000 grant for an area high school student to study Arc Info. Contact Carol Russeli with the EPA for more information.
- Fort Lewis College is creating a new program and teaching position which will be half GIS mapping and half geography.

OLD BUSINESS

-WQCC Letter to The EPA

In 1997 the State Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) granted the ARSG and upper Animas a three year extension of ambient standards. The EPA then approved the majority of the adopted standards but also disapproved some segments. The State administers the Clean Water Act (CWA) however the EPA is responsible for overseeing the State's compliance with the CWA. The WQCC has written a letter to the EPA acknowledging their disapproval but continuing their support for the ARSG. They feel these concerns will be addressed once the ARSG makes its recommendations at the informational hearing in August 2000.

- NPS 319 Proposals

The ARSG has been awarded \$200,000 for two grants for Non Point Source (NPS) funding. One is for a hydrocontrol remediation in Cement Creek and one is for the identification and control of water of infiltration sources into mines. Sites are being prioritized on Cement Creek and the group is encouraging landowners to volunteer sites for remediation and their time and resources for matching funds. This is a good opportunity for landowners to take advantage of funding and technical expertise to clean up their property.

- Grant Money Administration

The ARSG uses SJRC&D, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, to apply for and handle grant monies. The DMG has administered contracts and grants

in the past but is no longer in the position to do so. The ARSG is discussing means of taking over these necessary duties by forming a collaborative committee to decide where and how grant monies will be dispersed and to act as project managers. The DMG is willing to continue to give technical assistance. The objective would be to keep this effort within the group unless outside help is needed.

- Sunnyside Gold Update

In its agreement with the State SGC entered into a voluntary Consent Decree; making a commitment to do work on about 8 projects on the A (priority) list in order to gain release from their permit. Work on the first priority sites, the A-list, was completed in 1997 and monitoring continued in 1998. As the goals stated in the agreement have not been met as yet, SGC has commenced work on the B list in anticipation that these actions will help ultimate compliance. This list has been somewhat modified to the benefit of both Sunnyside and water quality. The B list now includes hydrologic controls behind their mill and enlarging the ground water catchment system for the #4 tailings pond. Sunnyside is still treating Cement Creek to balance remediation elsewhere in the basin. Improvement has not been demonstrated yet at A-72, below the confluence of Mineral Creek and the Animas mainstem, but it is expected to given more time.

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD - no new community input at this point

UAA AND TMDL - WHAT ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN TO US?

In order to comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA) all States must institute water quality standards. Section 303 (d) of the CWA requires States to identify waters that do not or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards. Colorado has included the Animas River above the confluence of Junction Creek on their 303(d) list of high priority sites which currently do not meet CWA requirements. The CWA thus requires that the water be improved if technology and funds are available. Stream use classifications and standards are a function of the CWA and states must comply. Although several segments within the Animas watershed do not comply the State has encouraged the ARSG to make recommendations for realistic water quality goals for adoption by the Water Quality Control Commission. The Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) is a tool and means to do this. All the studies and research conducted in the basin to date will be incorporated into the UAA and utilized to scientifically substantiate use classification recommendations by stream segment to the Commission. The ARSG has a work plan and timeline to complete the UAA in a timely manner. The upper Animas is acknowledged to be one of the most difficult watersheds in the State to complete due to the diversity of sources and complexity of the water quality problems. We are therefore being closely watched as being on the cutting edge of source characterization, analysis, and remediation implementation.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) are a measurement of the maximum allowed pollutant in the stream. They are also a requirement of the CWA on all impaired or threatened stream segments. TMDLs are designed to insure that all sources of pollutant loading are accounted for when trying to meet water quality standards. TMDLs incorporate the loading capacity of the

stream set by what use is to be attained. The EPA is being sued in numerous states by various environmental groups to get TMDLs implemented. States are required to come up with a list of stream segments that require TMDLs - the 303 (d) list. Very few areas have complied to date but the ARSG is conducting thorough Load Analysis of impacting metal constituents that will lead to TMDL identification. Once again we are breaking ground and creating a process, at the watershed scale for metal contamination, that has not been done elsewhere. The ARSG is simultaneously developing a TMDL framework which will provide a community developed regulatory mechanism for TMDL allocations.

TMDL provisions can include a.) point and non-point sources b.) metal contaminants c.) specific allocations (numbers), for each pollutant. Therefore several TMDLs for the same water body may be necessary. Seasonal variations can be included. A TMDL can be set up for separate segments or an entire basin and will allocate a total number that all the sources can not exceed. The ARSG will make TMDL recommendations to the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), who is responsible for TMDL implementation, at their scheduled biennial review in 2002.

NEW BUSINESS

1.) USGS Studies - Win Wright explained how he and Ken Lieb are working on loading analysis and natural background components for the UAA.

2.) Prioritization Process - Bill Simon reviewed the prioritization process that ranks sites in each drainage according to the data. If one segment ranks highly for several constituents then that area would be a good candidate for remediation in order to produce the biggest positive impact and improvement.

3.) Paul Beaber the USFS land surveyor gave an informative overview of mine surveying history and methodology. He has worked in the area for many years and has currently been identifying the boundaries between federal and private lands.

4.) FS/BLM project updates - Stephanie Odell gave a FY 99 update for possible work on the Bandora, Brooklyn, Bonner and upper Browns. Most of their contracts will be contracted through the DMG, however some will be let directly. Paul Krabacher said the DMG will get bid packages out in the 2nd quarter. It is a competitive bidding process and contractors will have to meet bonding and insurance requirements. Prebid meetings will be held before contracts go out for bid. Work will commence on the Old Hundred restoration project in two phases with access improvements in July and construction in August. This is being done in conjunction with the San Juan Historical Society. The DMG also needs consent to work on patented claims and closures. Chris George mentioned that adequate lead time and planning ahead for a limited work season is a problem. Paul said he will see if timelines can be accelerated.

5.) Bill Simon gave his coordinators report, reporting on meetings attended and projects he has been working on. He has organized a flow diagram to track all 12 programs that the SJRC&D (Bill) is currently

administering for the ARSG. Separate accounting and reporting is maintained for each program by Bill while a yearly audit is accomplished by an independent contractor of SJRC&D. He also announced that funding may be available for TMDLs through the EPA Ecosystem Protection Program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 with Stephanie Odell volunteering to facilitate the next meeting, which is April 15th. Please submit agenda items to Bill Simon.